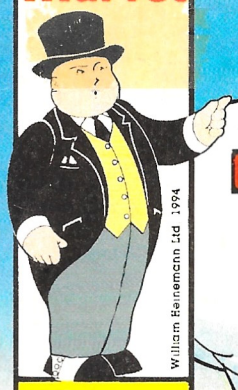
Marvel



William Heinemann Ltd 1994

15th July '94
No176 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

1st part Diecast Competition INSIDE!

Meet Thomas's new friends!

9 770954 939053 28

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas is a very lucky engine as he often takes part in the most interesting adventures. In both our stories, two special events are taking place and Thomas has the opportunity to meet some interesting new friends! But, where have they come from and why are they dressed in special costumes? Our first story begins on page 3! *Peep! Peep!*

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid Fat Controller's Card send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

Name .....

Address .....

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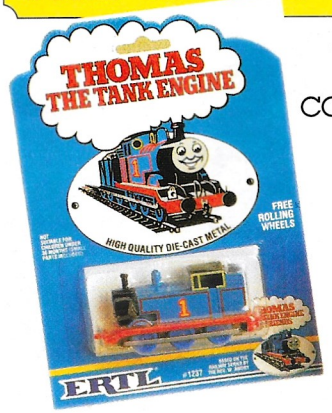
Postcode .....

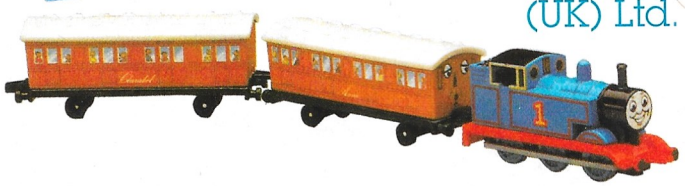
Age .....

THOMAS TOKEN

THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION!



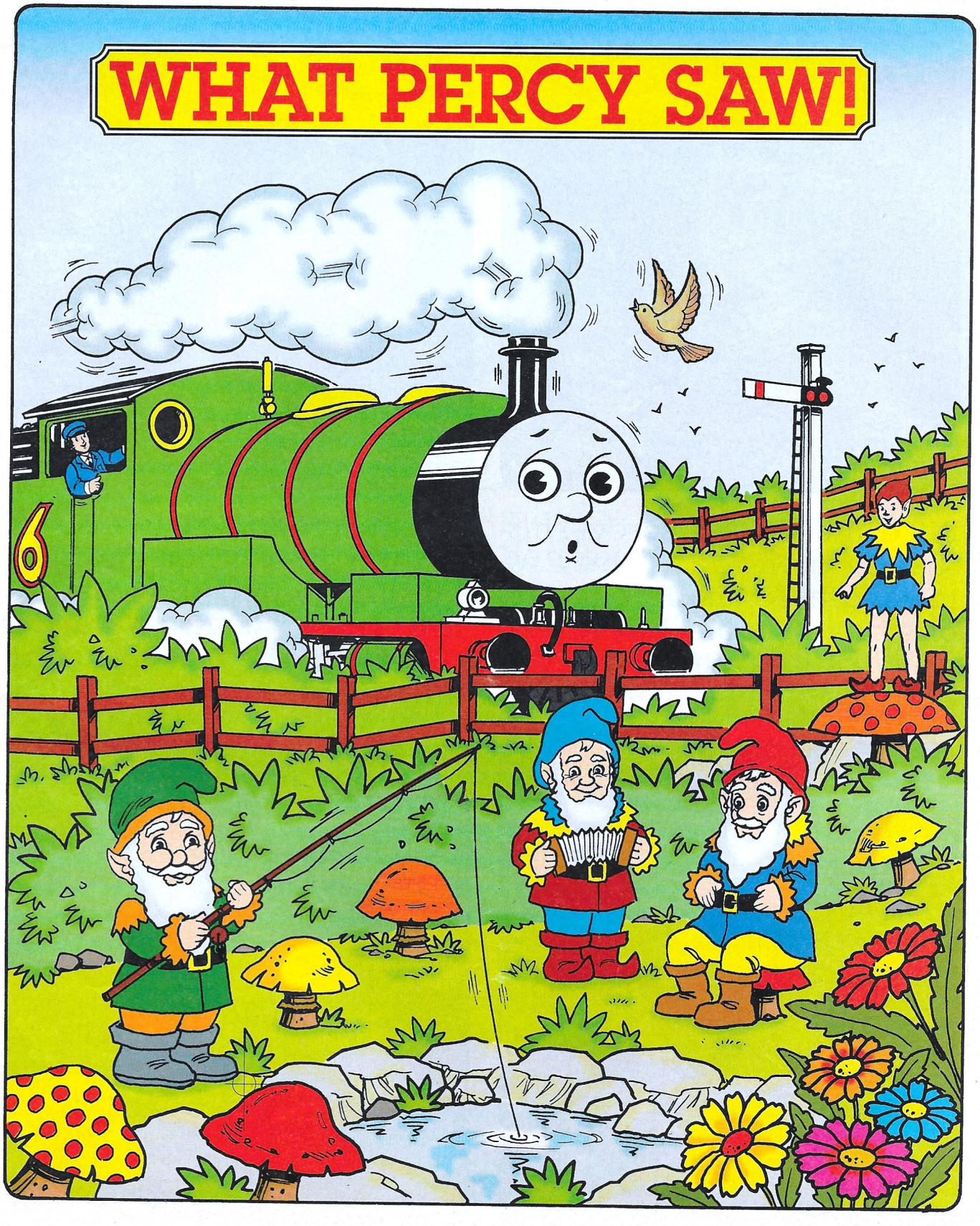
Turn to page 7 and collect the first part of our two part competition, which features the complete range of diecast models, courtesy of ERTL (UK) Ltd.



ABC CONSUMER PRESS

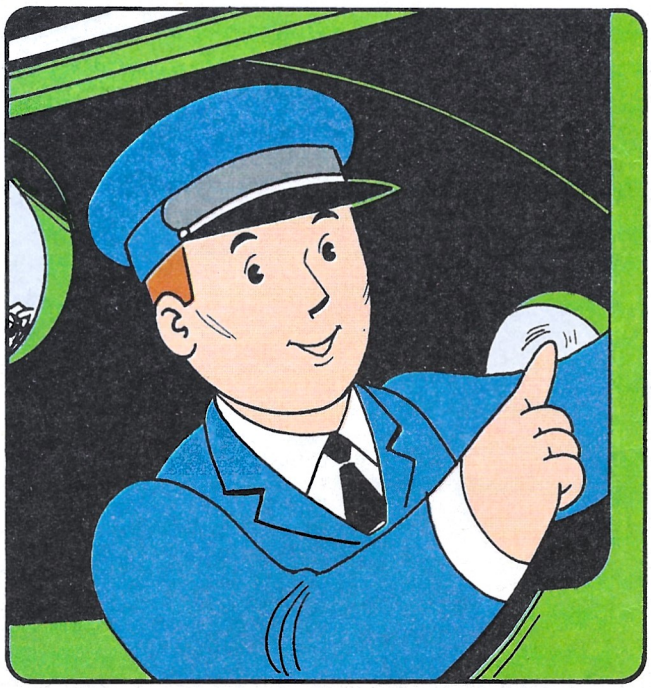
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Galton, Chairman, Vincent Conran, Managing Director, Paul Neary, Editorial Director, Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandise rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by IPC Marketforce, Independent Publishers Group, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE 9LS. Tel. 071 261 6061 ISSN 0954-9390.

WHAT PERCY SAW!

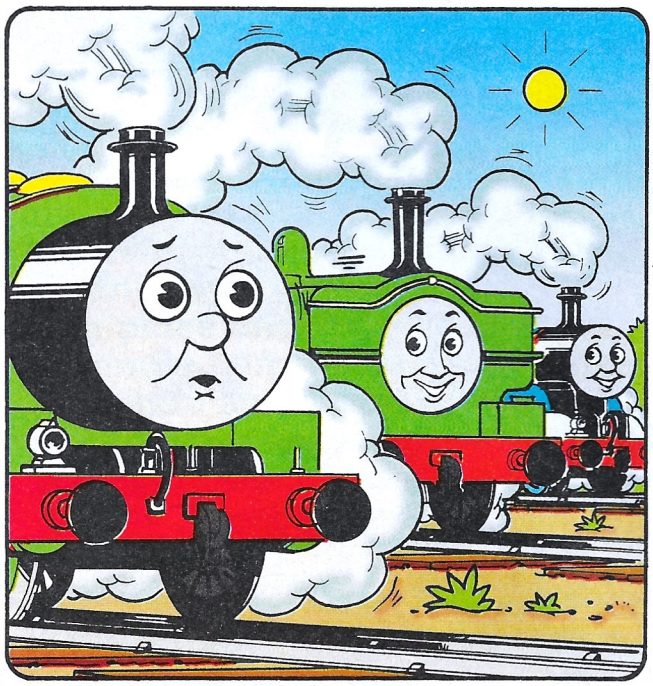


1. The Fat Controller had sent Percy to collect a goods train. As he waited for a signal to change, Percy's eyes suddenly opened wide in wonder.

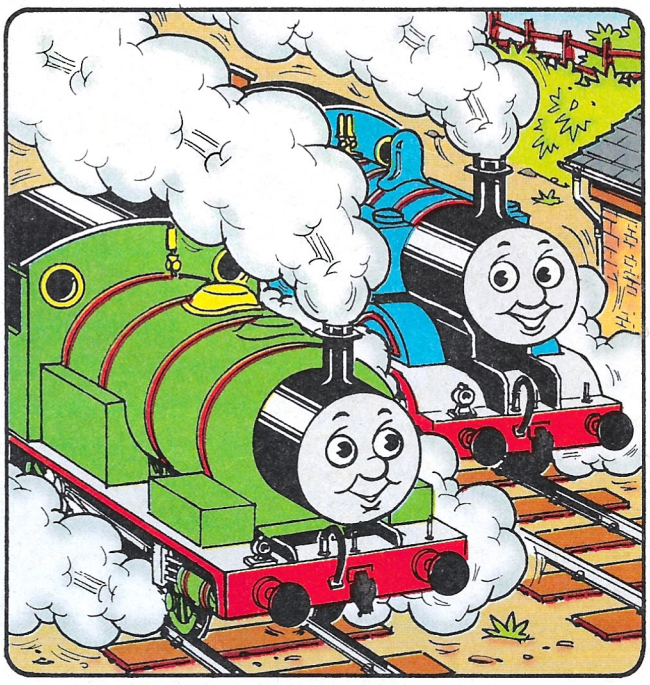
2. "Look at all those little people!" he gasped. "I've heard about gnomes and pixies. They come from fairyland!" A big garden centre was near the line.



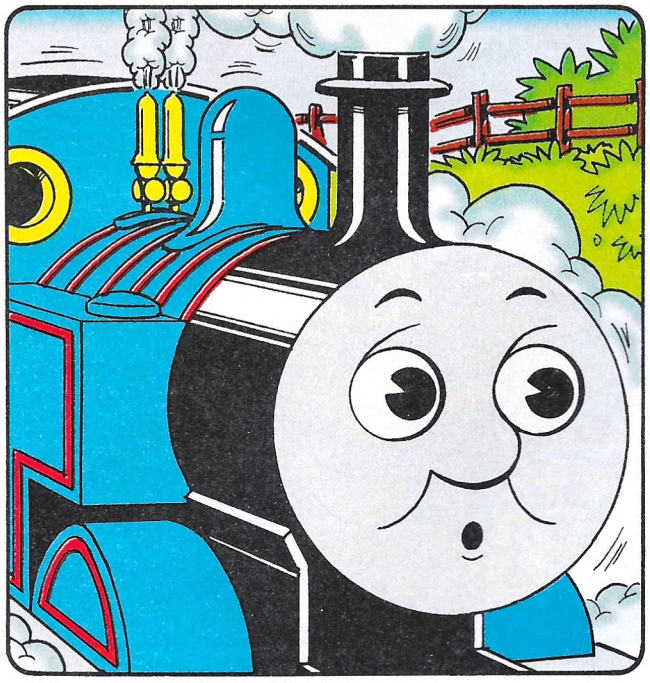
3. "Calm down, Percy!" his driver grinned. "They're just painted models made of stone. People buy them and put them in their gardens!"



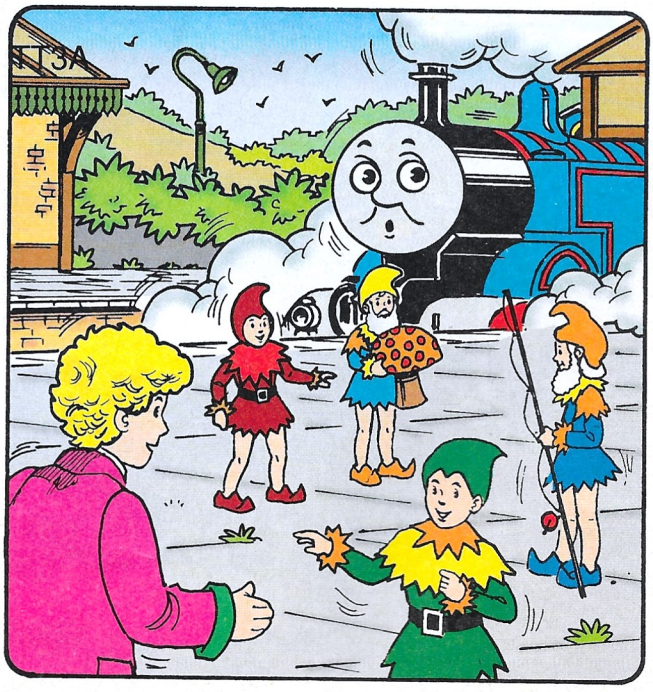
4. Later, back at the Main Station, the other engines laughed when they heard the story. "Fancy Percy thinking they were *real* little people!" said Duck.



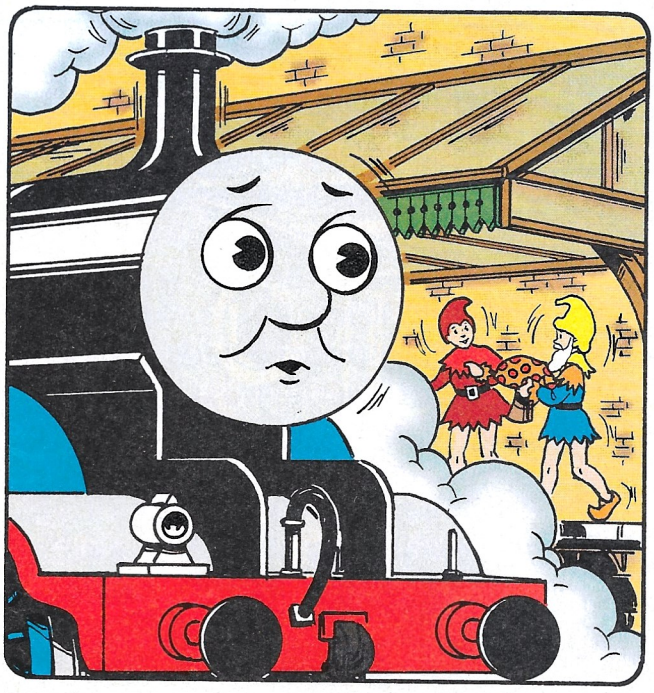
5. Percy felt very silly. "Cheer up!" smiled Thomas. "We all make mistakes!" Shortly, Thomas set off with his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel.



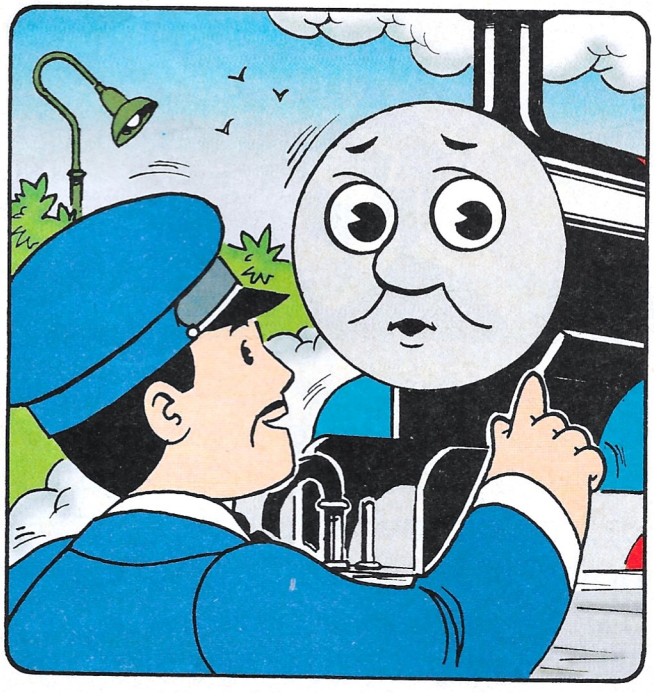
6. Thomas was to take a special passenger train along his branch line. As he approached a station, he whistled in amazement at an astonishing sight.



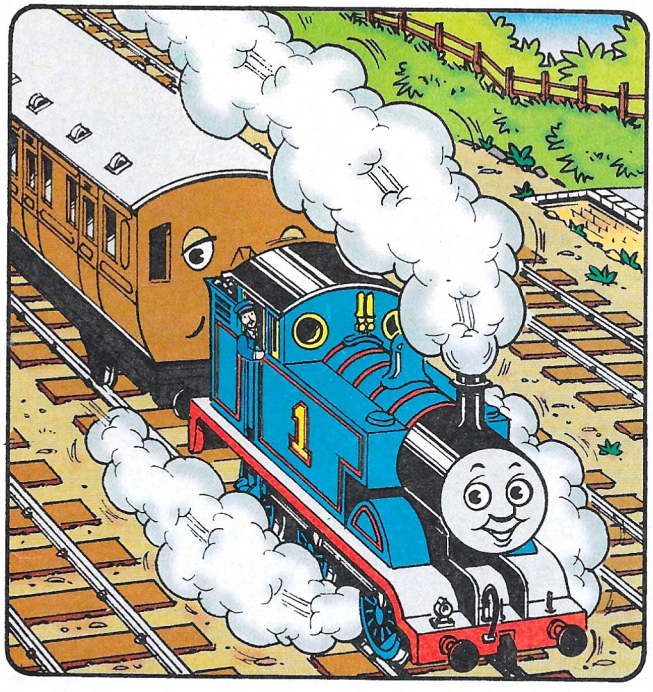
7. On the platform was an excited crowd of brightly dressed little people. "Gnomes and pixies," cried Thomas, who could hardly believe it. "They are real!"



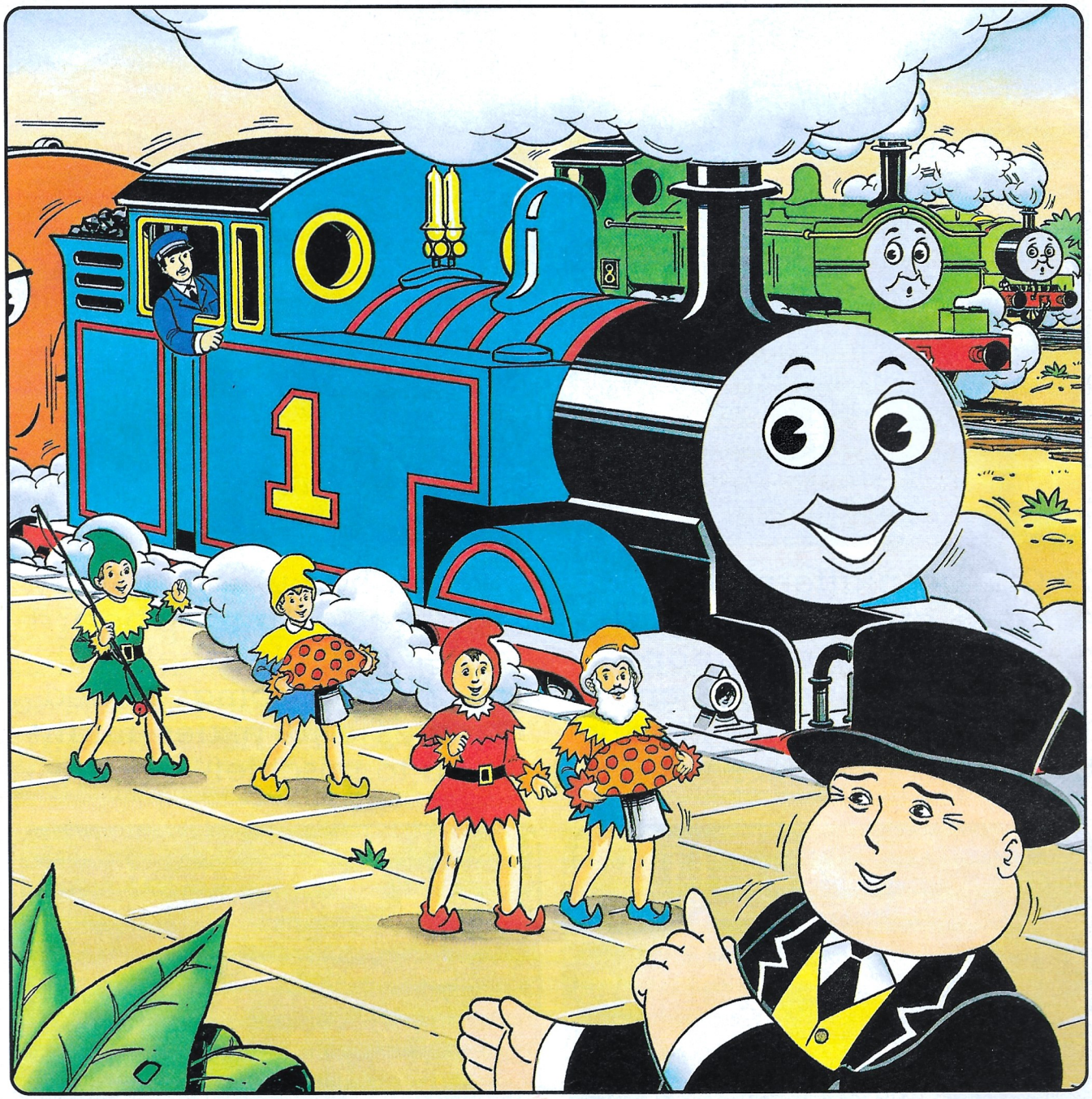
8. When he pulled up, they began to climb aboard Annie and Clarabel. "Oh, stop them!" Thomas called. "Gnomes and pixies might get up to mischief!"



9. "These won't!" his driver replied, laughing. "They're schoolchildren wearing costumes!" He explained that Bertie the Bus was to meet them at the Main Station.



10. "He'll be taking the children to the town hall to put on a play!" added the driver. What a sight greeted the other engines when Thomas returned.



11. With gasps of surprise they stared at the band of cheerful little passengers who stepped down on to the platform, talking and laughing among themselves. Some carried fishing-rods or small, toodstool-shaped seats. Others held violins or flutes. "There! What did I tell you!" cried Percy. "These aren't models!"

12. "Perhaps what he saw weren't garden gnomes, after all!" gasped Duck. The engines did not know what to believe now, even when they learned about the play. Next day, Thomas passed the garden centre. All the gnomes had gone. "They must have been sold, unless they walked away!" laughed Thomas!

THE END!

In our next issue: Emergency!

WIN ONE OF THESE SPLENDID PRIZES!

Our special 1st prize winner receives the complete Diecast Range of toys! 12 second prize winners receive diecast models of Thomas, Annie and Clarabel! 24 third prize winners receive an individual diecast model of Thomas the Tank Engine.

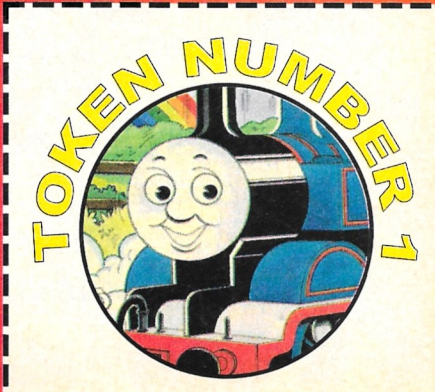
(The complete diecast range includes Gordon the Express Engine, Henry, Donald and Douglas, Edward, James, Harold the Helicopter, Henrietta, the Troublesome Trucks, Bill and Ben, Percy, Duck, Diesel, Terence the Tractor and Trevor the Traction Engine.)

How to enter:

Collect and keep part 1 of this competition which includes Token No.1. You can send this page along with part 2 (from our next issue) which will feature a Thomas picture for you to colour.

Closing date:12th August 1994.

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.



LOST IN THE FOG!

When Thomas arrived at the harbour station to collect passengers from the morning ferry, a fog suddenly came down. Luckily, the ferry was just arriving and it neared its mooring like a huge shadow in the swirling mist.

Out at sea there were strange, wailing noises.

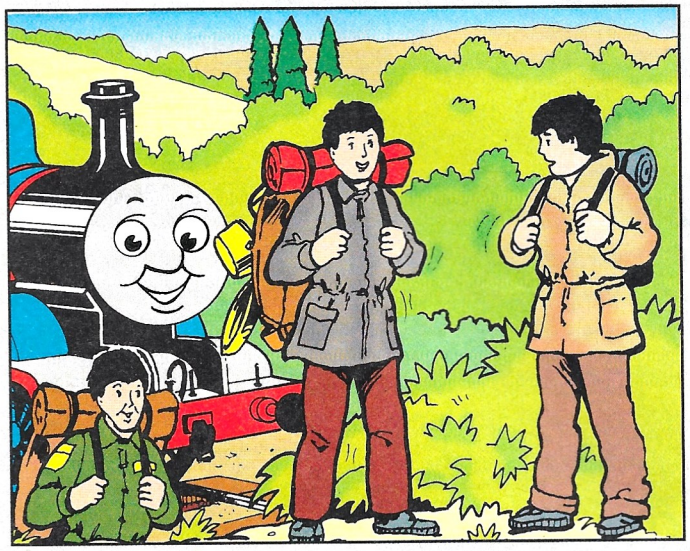
"Oh! What are those creepy sounds?" Thomas asked nervously.

"Warnings," explained the driver. "Ships are using their fog-horns to show where they are and stop others running into them."

"How clever!" said Thomas, cheering up.

For the next few days he carried visitors all over the Island of Sodor. On one early-morning trip he took a party of walkers to a station near the end of the line, where they were to start a cross-country hike.

"Is there a train at seven o'clock?" their leader called to Thomas's driver as the hikers stepped down from Annie and Clarabel. They all wore special boots and carried



knapsacks.

"Yes, there is!" replied the driver. "But don't be late. It's the last train!"

The hikers set off, heading for the countryside beyond the station. It was lonely and hilly but they were well-equipped. They waved goodbye to Thomas who blew his whistle. The leader had one too, and answered him.

Hours later, the little tank engine made his way back to the same station with the last train of the day. Now it was getting foggy and Thomas went very carefully. Soon a grey blanket of low cloud hid everything.

"I hope the hikers are safely at the station, waiting for us,"

he said.
When Thomas arrived, the platform was empty except for the stationmaster.

"I'm worried those walkers can't find their way back in this fog," he told Thomas's driver.

But then Thomas remembered the ships signalling with their fog-horns.

"I can help them!" he cried. "I'll blow my whistle!"

"What a good idea!" said his driver. "Sound carries well in fog. The whistle might just guide the hikers until they see the station's lights!"

"Peep! Peep!" Thomas blew and blew, then waited a while. There was still no sign of the hikers so he puffed steadily along the track. He kept whistling and stopping.

Thomas had not gone far when he heard a distant whistle reply.

At long last, the party of tired hikers came into view.

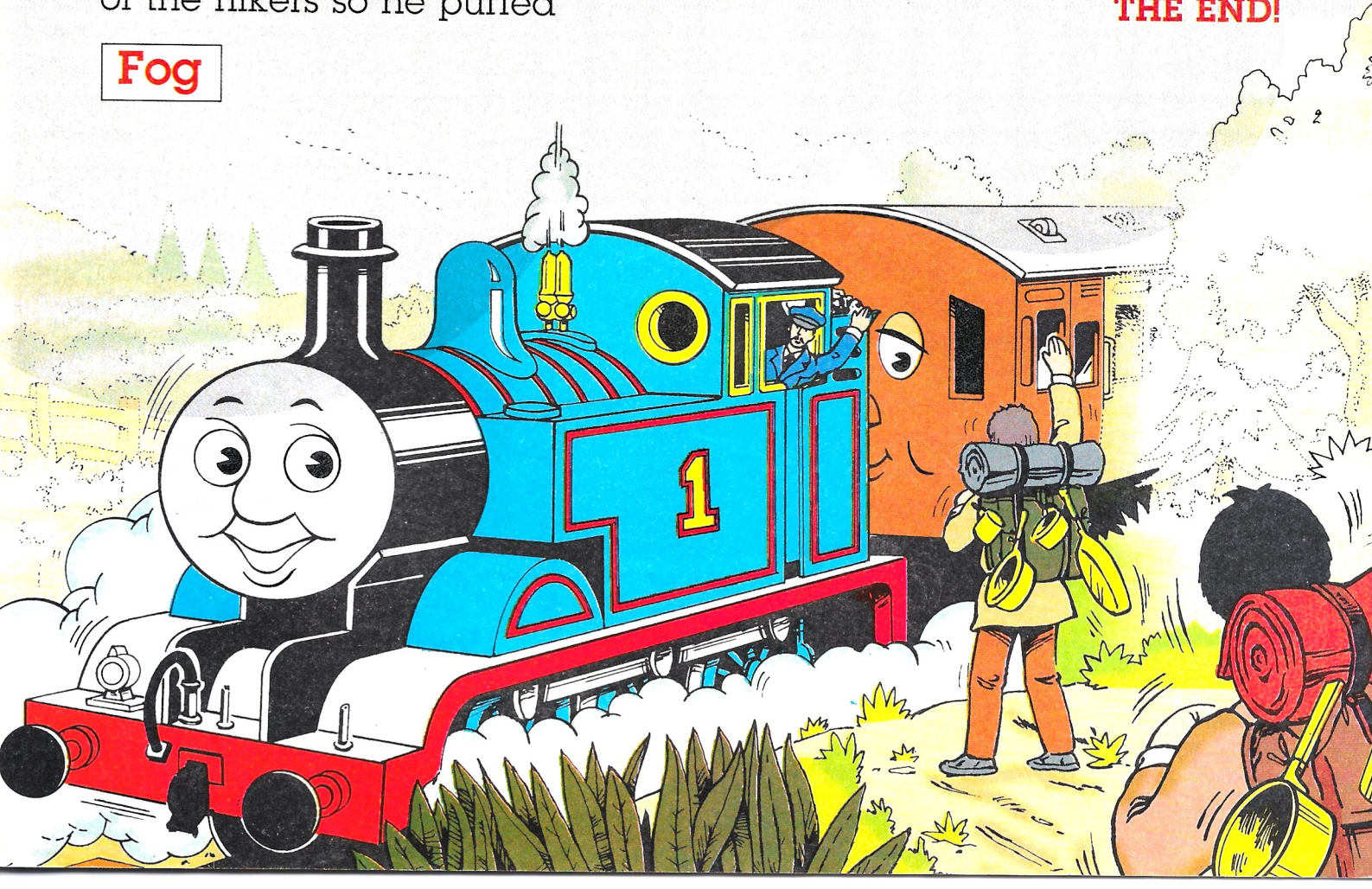
"Thank goodness you signalled," their leader called. "The fog closed in so quickly, we became hopelessly lost. We might have been in real trouble if we hadn't heard Thomas and followed the sound of his whistle!"

"I think he wants to be a ship at sea," grinned the driver.

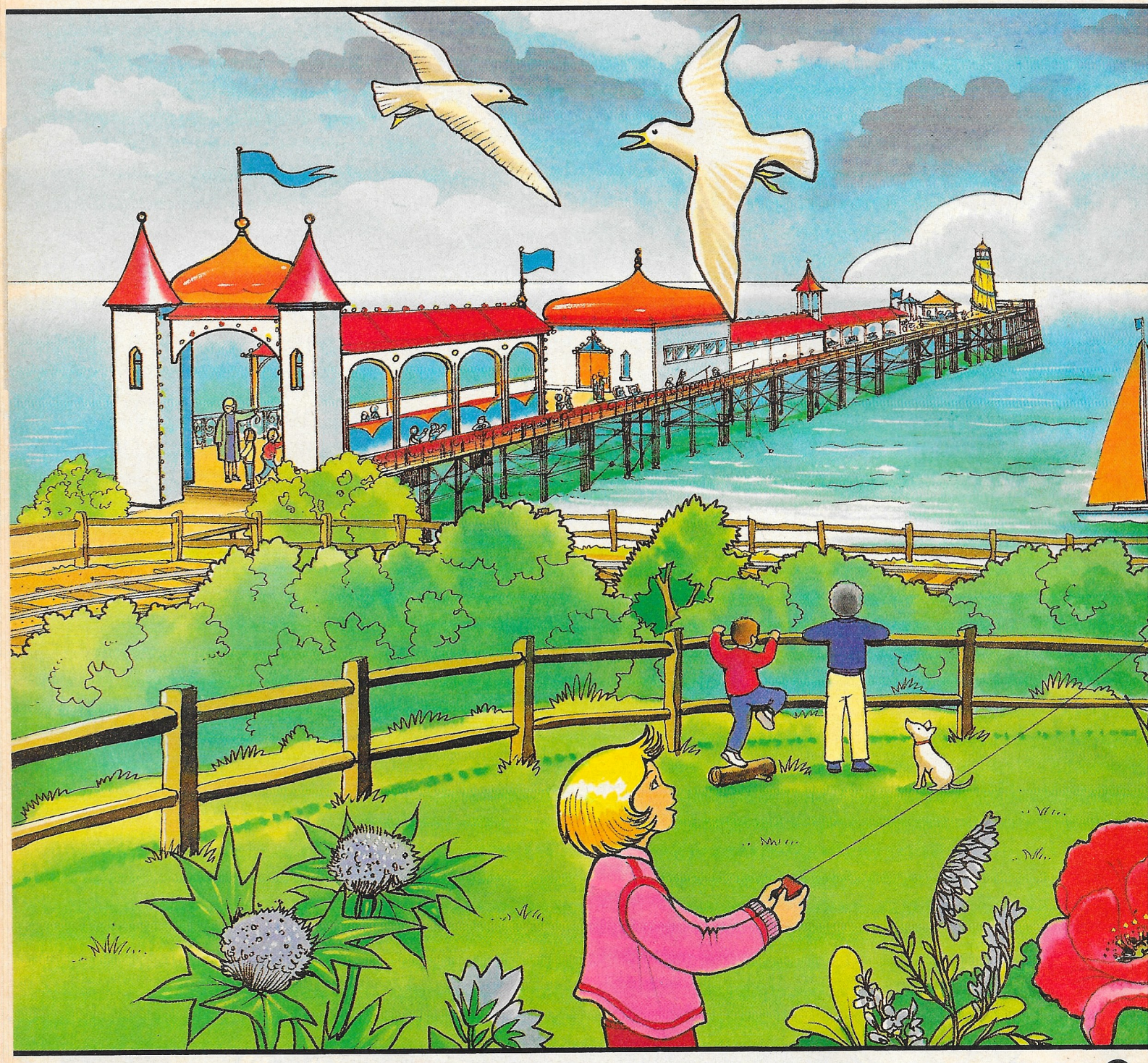
The walkers looked puzzled but a happy Thomas understood perfectly.

THE END!

Fog



Past the p



Which engine can you see?
What type of engine is she?
What colour is she?
Point to the yacht!

How many birds can y
What is the girl flying?
What colour is the kite
Point to the big pier!

ier!

see?

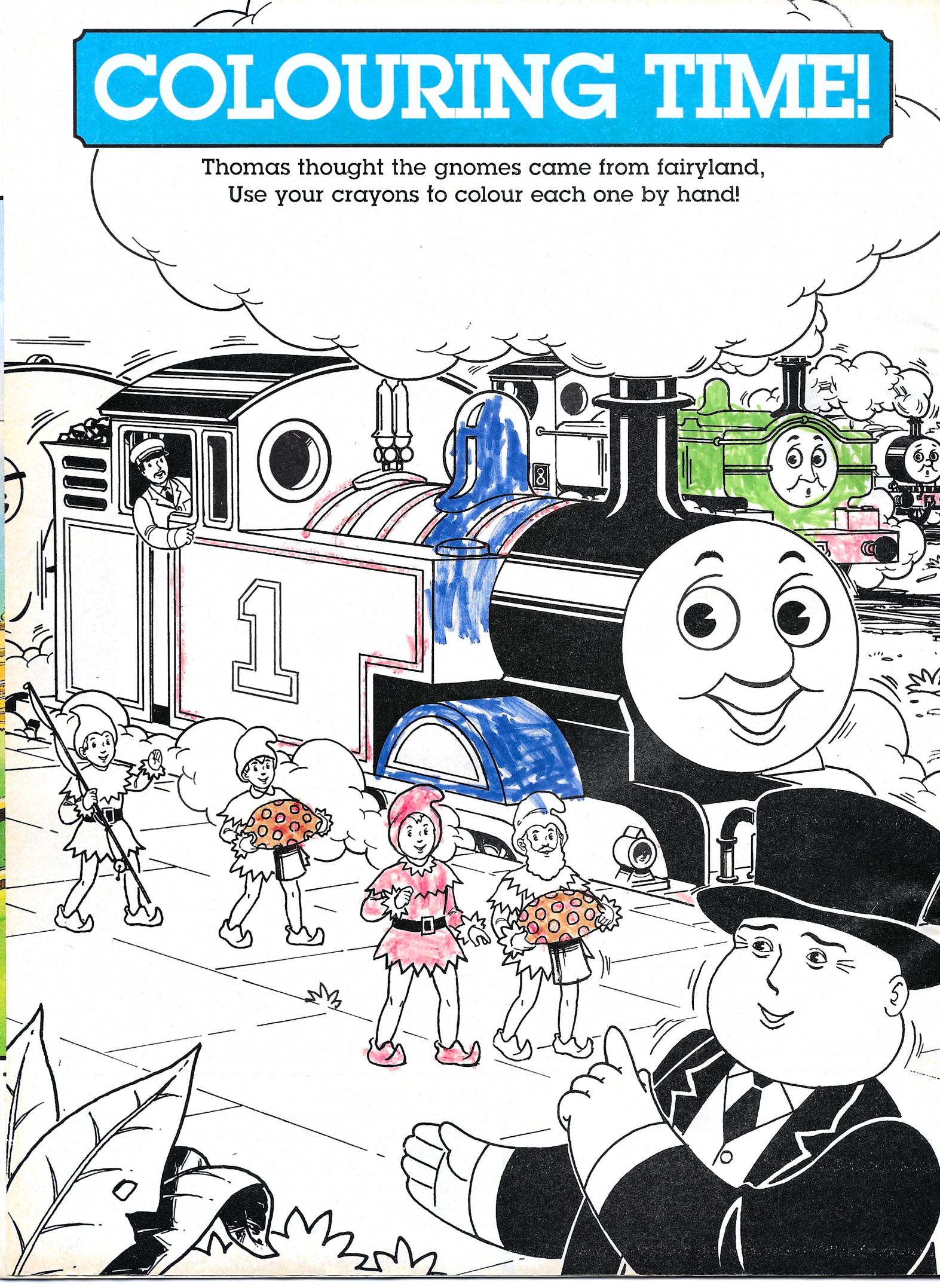
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the farm!

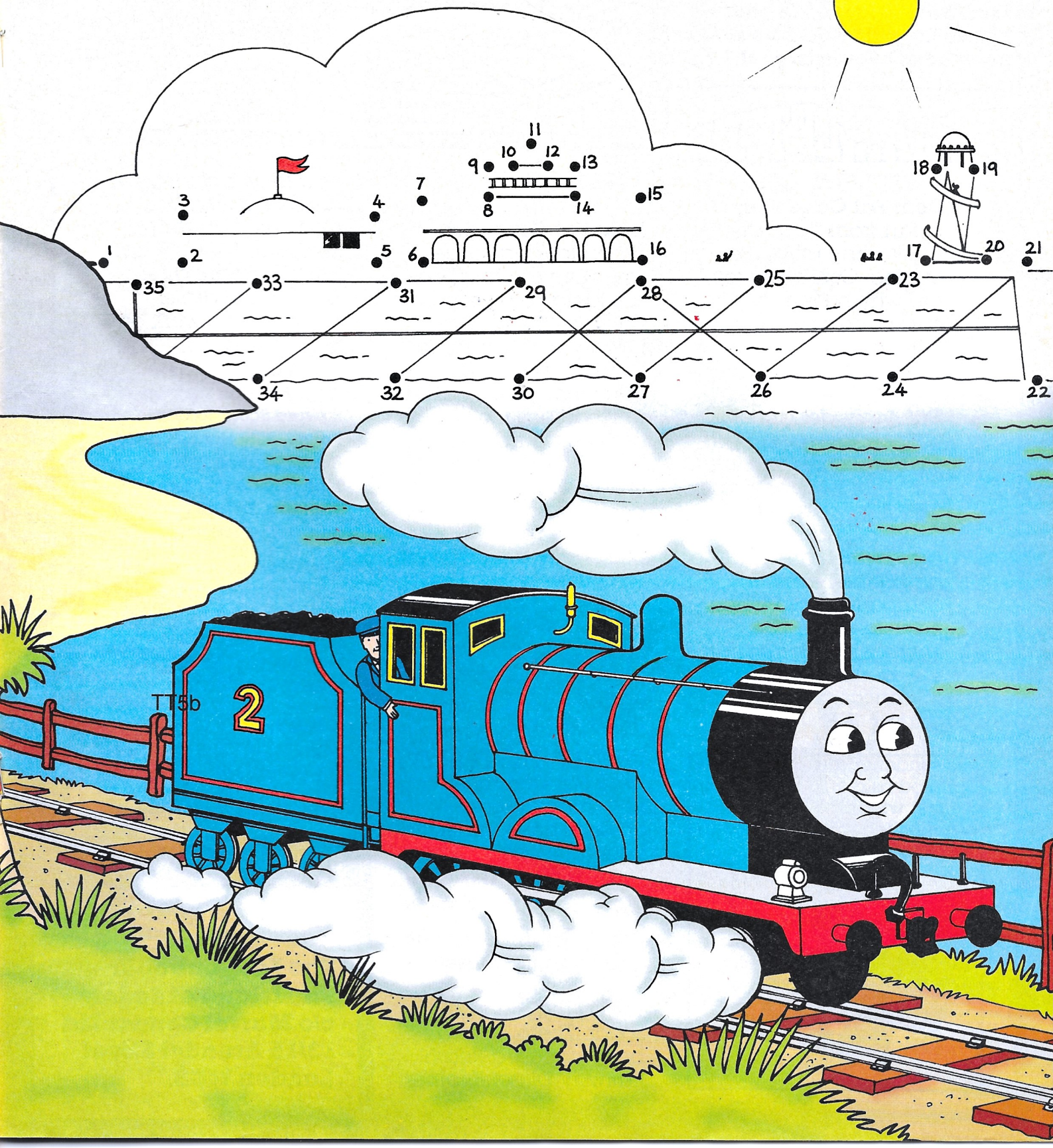
COLOURING TIME!

Thomas thought the gnomes came from fairyland,
Use your crayons to colour each one by hand!

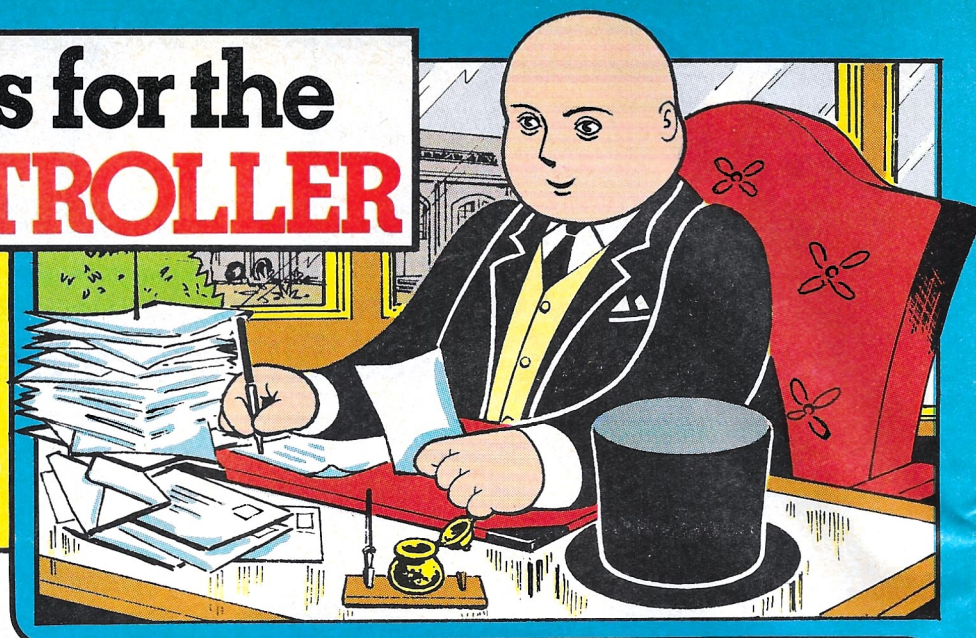


JOIN THE DOTS!

A sunny day, bright and clear,
Join the dots to see what will appear!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER

DIFFERENT ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Apart from Thomas, Duck is my favourite engine. Could you tell me why he is a different shape from all the other engines?

Love from **Sam Baker**, aged 3.

Duck was designed with a different shape so that workmen could have easier access to his tank, when they needed to oil his frame parts which are inside his pannier tank. In comparison, workmen have to reach Thomas's tank from the ground if they wish to service or oil his parts!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

WEDDING GUEST!

Dear Fat Controller,
When looking inside my mum and dad's wedding photo album, I always notice that my dad has the same Top Hat as you. Do you wear your Top Hat to weddings too?

Love from **Adam Fowles**, aged 3.

Well! I do admire your dad's choice of clothing. Yes, I would personally attend most weddings wearing my official railway suit and my Top Hat too! I could be persuaded to wear my coloured scarf if I want to look really smart.

DIESEL HISTORY!

Dear Fat Controller,
How many diesel engines have visited your railway?

Love from **Alex Staff** aged 8.

I can remember about four mainline diesel engines who have visited the Island of Sodor. These have all been standard British Railway Diesel Engines and they included two engines called Bear and Rusty. At the moment, Diesel, Mavis and Daisy are three permanent diesel engines who work on my railway.

BIRTHDAYS!

Edward Scott, Jordan Payne, Billy Hance, Kirsty Rudd, Stephen Wiles, Matthew Clegg, Ben Williams, Daniel Donaghy and Daniel Harrison.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

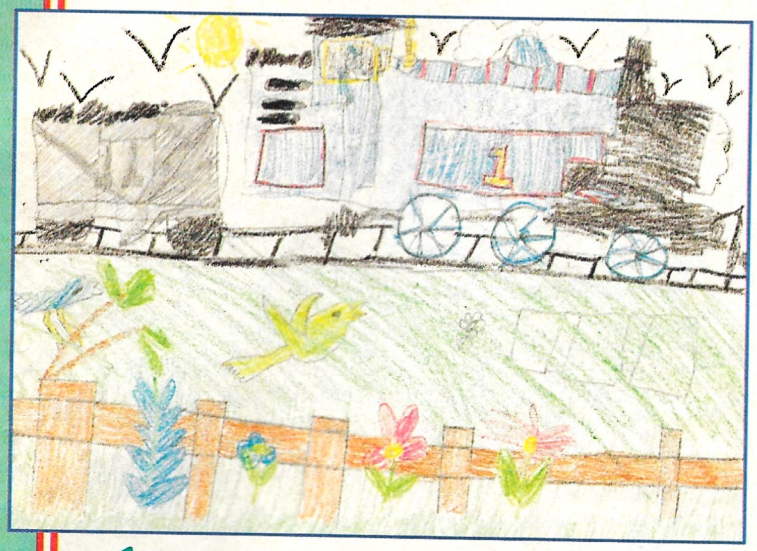
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

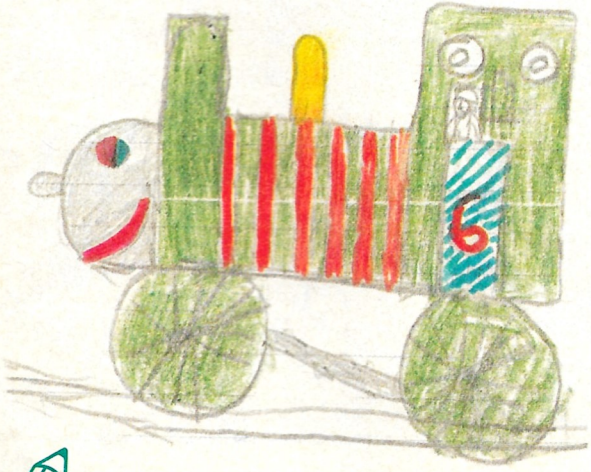
The Fat Controller's Drawing Page!

Thank you for sending your colourful pictures. Look below to see if yours has been printed.

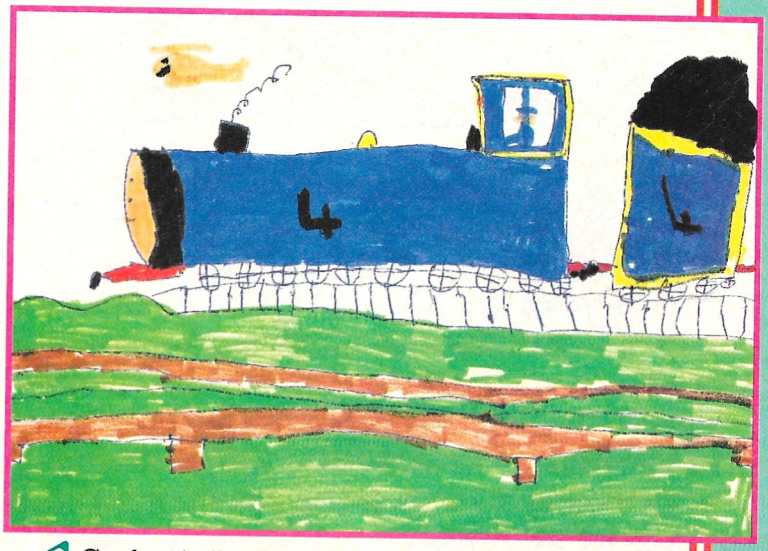


Thomas the Tank Engine always enjoys puffing through the countryside. Can you see all the birds and flowers in the picture too? A special thank you goes out to Sheetal Marwaha from Leicester.

Jamie Tuffield of Kent has sent in this picture of James the Red Engine! Look at his bright shiny paintwork.



Look at this picture of Percy. He's puffing up Gordon's Hill. Congratulations to Stacey Hearn.



Gordon is the big Express Engine! Look at him speeding along. Jack Shaw of Newcastle coloured this bright picture of my fastest engine.

If you would like one of your drawings or pictures printed on our letters page, please send them to me at: **The Fat Controller's Drawing Page, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX.**

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

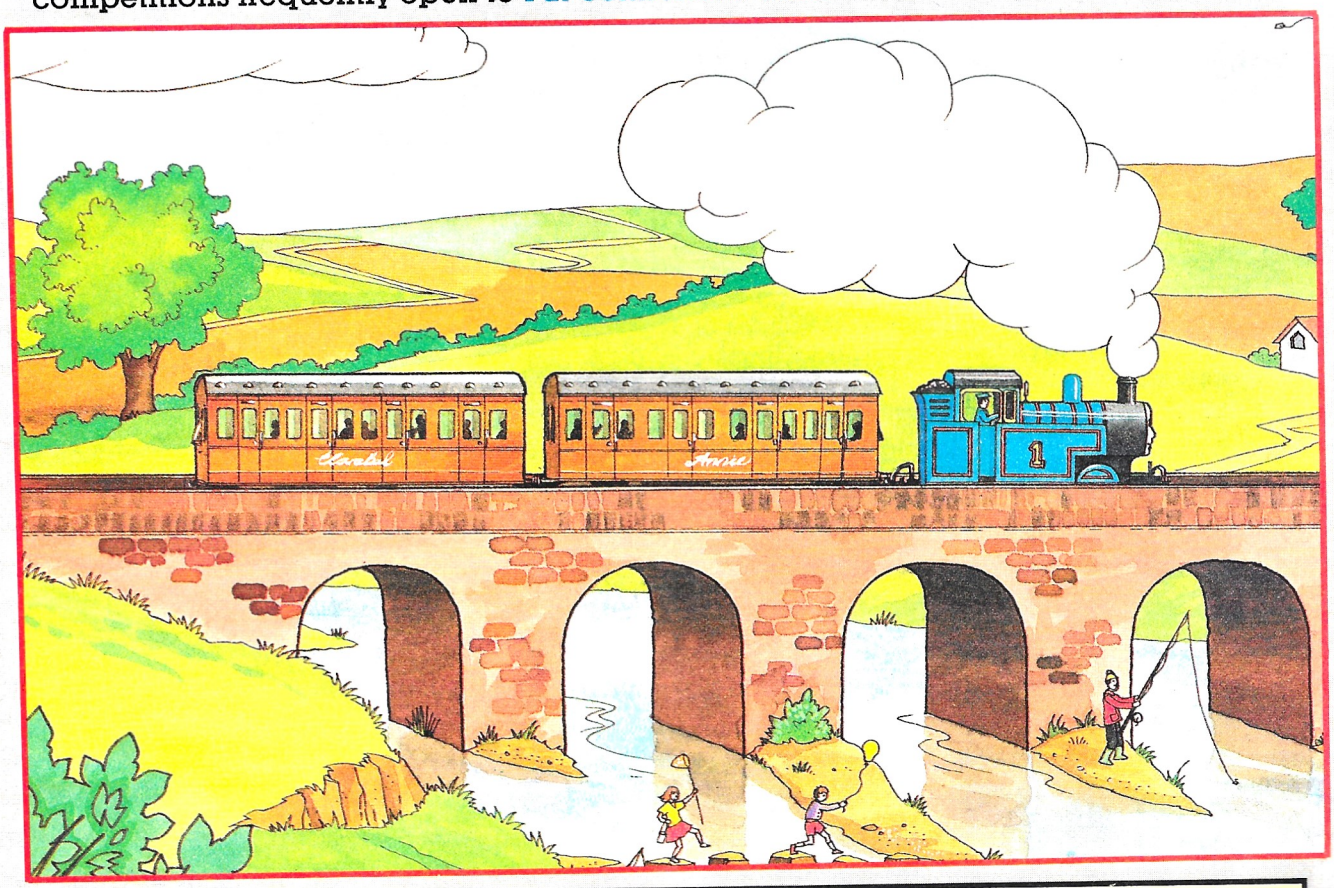
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas) 17H

☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas) 18M

Child's name .....

Address .....

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Date of birth .....

Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date.....

Cardholder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....

Address (if different from child's) .....

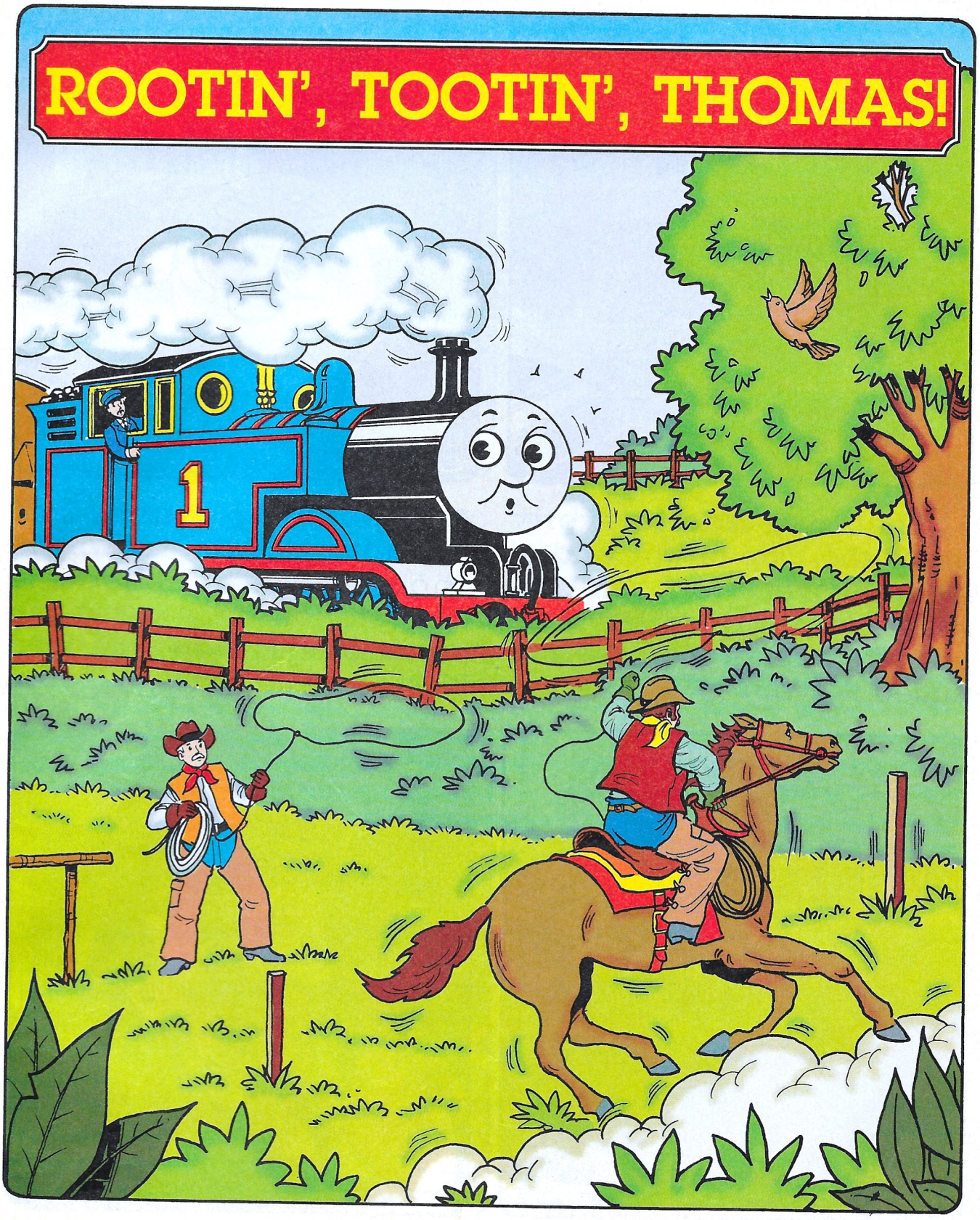
.....

..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

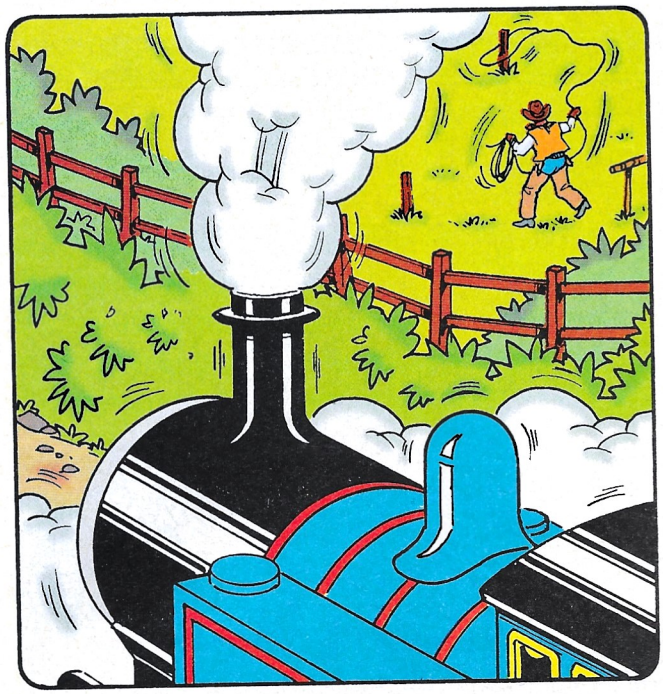
(Tick boxes where appropriate)

ROOTIN', TOOTIN', THOMAS!

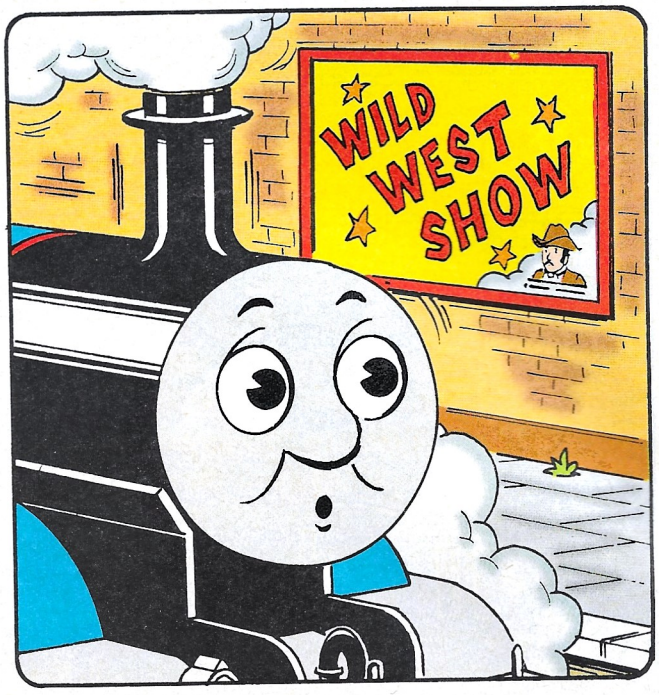


1. Thomas was steaming busily along his branch line one morning, when he spotted some people horse-riding across a field, not far from the track.

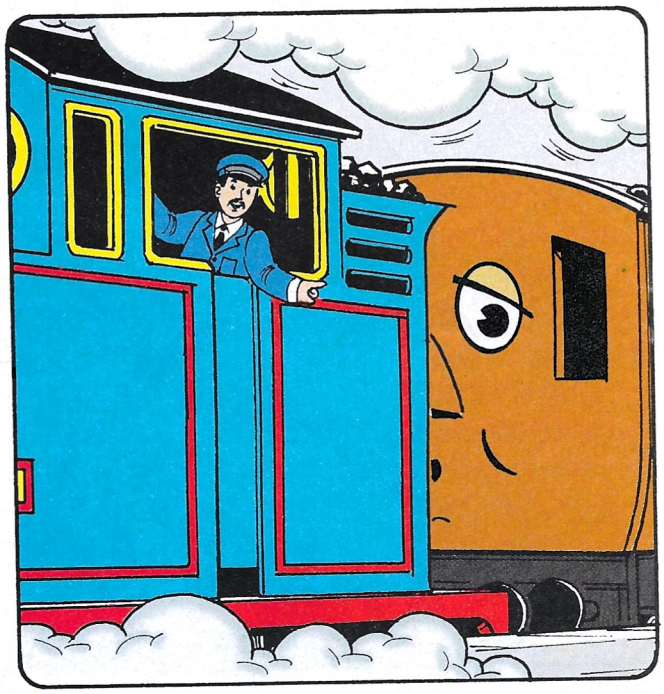
2. As the riders galloped closer, Thomas was very surprised to see they wore strange hats and whirled long ropes. "Look!" Thomas called to his driver.



3. Then one rider cleverly threw the loop on the end of his rope over a wooden pole in the ground as he rode past. He caught the pole and pulled it over.

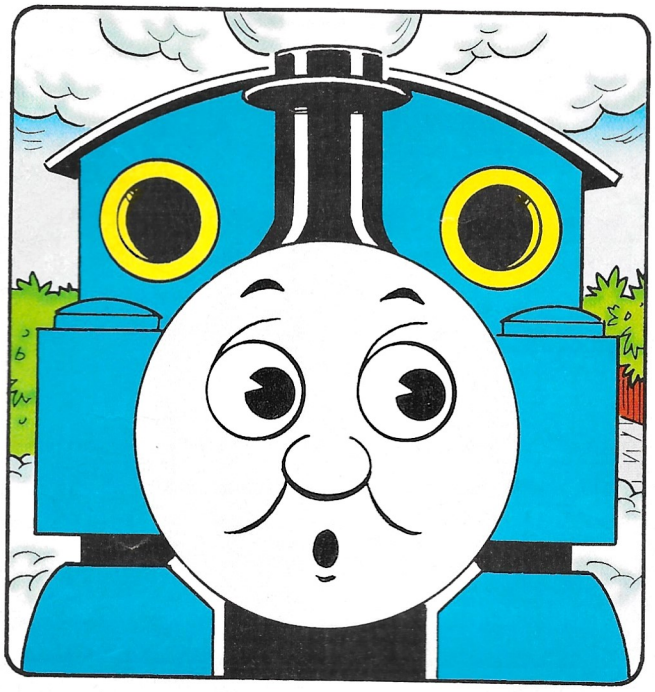


4. "That rope is a lasso," said the driver. "He's a cowboy!" Thomas soon reached the next station and saw a big poster on the platform. 'Wild West Show', it read.

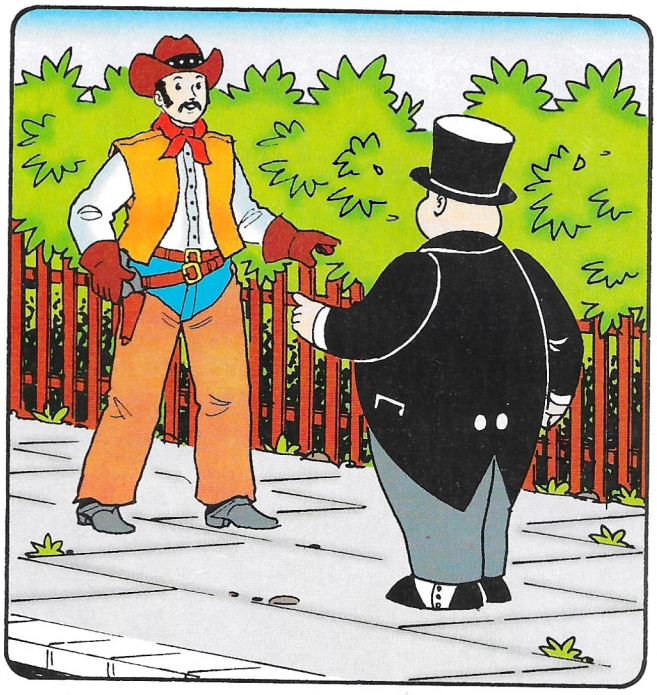


5. As Thomas waited for passengers to board Annie and Clarabel, his driver saw that he was looking puzzled. "Cowboys lived in the old American West," he explained.

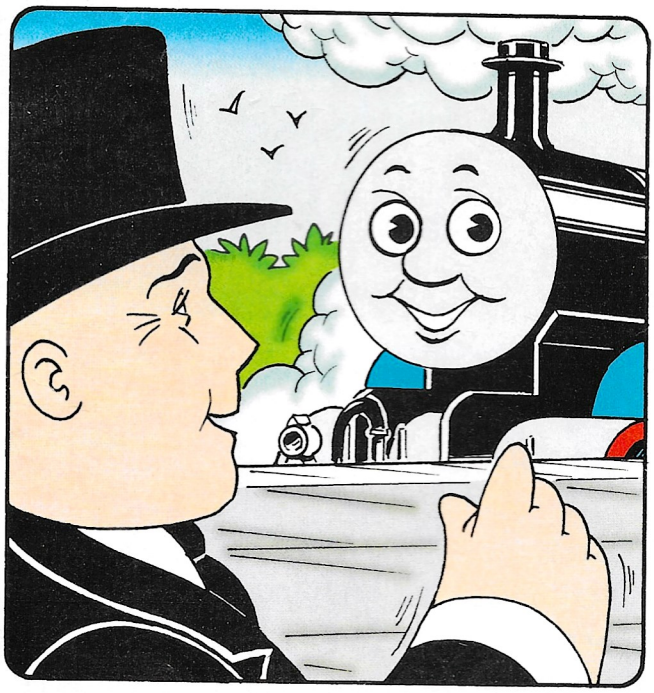
6. "They were called that because they looked after cattle or cows," he added. "The show is to be put on by some people who enjoy dressing up as cowboys!"



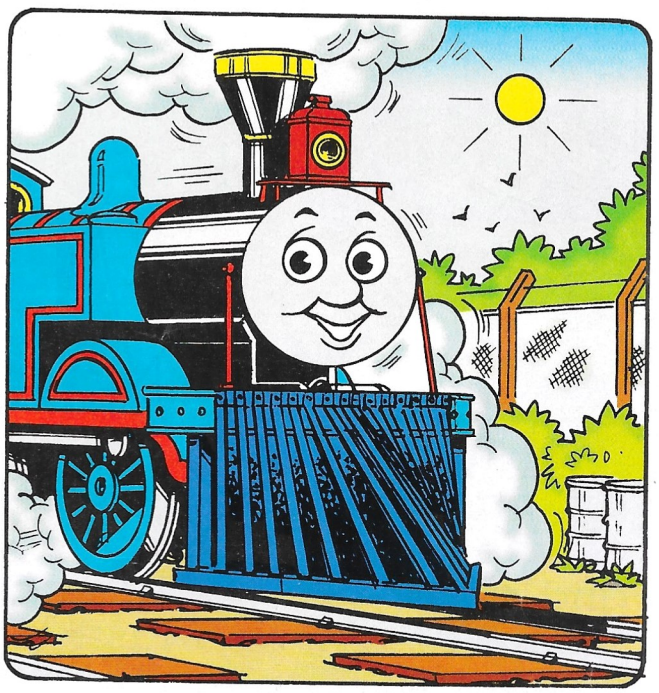
7. Thomas had seen them practising for the show. "I wish I could watch it!" he said. Later, he returned to the Main Station and had another surprise.



8. Who should be talking to the Fat Controller but one of the cowboys. When the visitor had gone, the Fat Controller told Thomas some very exciting news.



9. "You are to be in the Wild West Show, too," he said, "so we must make you look more like a Wild West engine!" Next day, Thomas was sent to the Works.



10. When he came out, the other engines could hardly recognise him. Thomas had even been fitted with a strangely shaped funnel especially for the show.

11. He was soon told what he had to do and steamed happily to the showground by an old loop-line. The cowboys waved their hats and said, "Howdy, Thomas!" "Peep! Peep!" he whistled. Edward ran a special train which brought the visitors and the show got underway. The cowboys did lots of rope and riding tricks.

12. Then some of them acted as train robbers. They chased after Thomas to rob his olden-day passengers. But the sheriff caught the robbers. Everyone knew it was just for fun and the crowd cheered. "Rootin', tootin' Thomas sure helped make our show a success!" the proud little engine heard the cowboys say.

THE END!

In our next issue: Royal passengers!